



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

55 illegal aliens working for state janitorial contractor arrested by ICE

-Arrests part of ICE's ongoing mission to secure nation's critical infrastructure sites-

TALLAHASSEE –Fifty-five illegal aliens that provided janitorial services in state government buildings here were arrested Saturday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents.

All of the illegal aliens arrested were employed by General Building Maintenance, Inc. (GBM), a janitorial services company contracted by the state of Florida.

Of the 55 arrested, two face criminal prosecution for illegally re-entering the country after being deported and one for document fraud. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Florida has accepted the cases for prosecution. All three individuals are in custody awaiting the outcome of their cases.

Twenty-one of those arrested admitted to being illegally present in the country and accepted stipulated orders of removal. Their removal from the country is imminent.

The remaining 30 individuals were charged administratively for being in violation of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Twenty-four remain in ICE custody and six were given orders of supervision because they were either juveniles, or families with young children.

All of those arrested are from Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala.

"A potential vulnerability has been neutralized," said Robert Weber, special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Tampa. "These arrests are a reflection of the federal government's commitment to safeguarding our nation's critical infrastructure sites."

In accordance with ICE's homeland security mission, ICE agents prioritize worksite enforcement efforts by focusing on investigations related to critical infrastructure, national security and employers who engage in egregious criminal violations.

Over the past few years, ICE agents have conducted several nationwide operations designed to remove illegal aliens found working at some of the nation's most sensitive worksites, including airports, nuclear power plants, chemical plants and defense facilities.

Numerous state and local agencies participated in the investigation including: the ICE field office of detention and removal; the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE); the Florida Department of Management Services; the Tallahassee Police Department; the Social Security Administration; the Office of Inspector General; the U.S. Marshal's Service and Leon County Sheriff's Office.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.